Leicester,
March 14/69

Dear friend Garrison;

I find the enclosed note (C. Allen's) 15 not yet returned to you, — & you may like to have it. I came home Sat. A.M., having learned, (of J. C. Davis) the day before, that the Court wd. expect the Atty. Genl. to come into Court & there *ask* that the Trustees, nominated by us, ~~might~~ may be appointed, — which request, Mr. Davis thought, wd. be made Sat. morning. The *ways* of Courts, & their forms, are "past finding out", by the uninitiated like myself, and in the present instance Mr. Davis himself was surprised; he thought the nomination, unanimously made by us, & the endorsement given by the Atty. Genl. by the act of transmitting the nomination to the Judges, were in themselves sufficient. — I think it probable they mean that every step in the case shall be taken in *open Court*; & that certainly is right in itself, and, though occasioning delay, it probably best for our cause. It will probably be several days yet before the action of the Court is known, and the Trustees can have a meeting. ~~[illegible]~~ I hope that meeting will not be precipitated but due notice given to each, & time enough for each and all to attend it. I suppose these notices must go from the Atty. Genl. himself, and that he will have to make final report to the Court of our action.

Tomorrow I go to Greenfield to attend (on Tuesday) the wedding of my niece Mary Davis to Mr. Conness, recently U.S. Senator from California. There I expect to meet J. C. Davis, who will be able to tell me if the Court has taken any further action.

– You were good enough to send me quite a list of names & contributions to the A. S. Festival. The presence of some of ~~them~~ those names, there, amounts to something

* Nearly Every one of these names were found on the "Testimonial" list in your case; and I doubt not were visited (with a vast many others who had the sense and courage to say "No") in consequence of being found there. Mr. Hollingsworth is a Paper Maker living near the Robbinses & G. W. Greene's in Milton. His name also was on your "Testimonial"; & hence he is mulcted.

very like self-stultification. Every one indicates a power of will, and an amount of talk, brought to bear upon them, by one resolved not to take "no", nor to let them off without a heavy assessment. In the case of Mrs. Fenno Tudor, Mrs. Lodge, J. M. Forbes, A. H. Rice, G. C. Richardson, G. S. Winslow, H. L. Pierce, A. A. Burrage, J. C. Haynes, S. E. Sewall, J. R. Lowell, Mrs. Dresel, Estes Howe,* & others, their co-operation is inexplicable, save on the supposition of the most implacable "button-holing". But I was amused, & have laughed heartily since, at the quotation you made from their report, of the amount obtained being greater than ever before realized (not true, I think, by the way) "in the palmiest days of our cause". What do they think the "palmiest days"? Those old days when Slavery was in the ascendant? – when Church & State ~~were~~ made haste to do its bidding? – When the slave-mother fainted with fatigue in the cotton-row, and her sons & her daughters were sold to strangers, & on the auction-block? It would verily seem as if they did think so,— and longed for the days of the old agitation, conflict, & bitterness, with the monster Slavery still on the throne. What do they mean by talking of the "palmiest days", and ~~to th~~ by their incessant complaints and despair at the existing state of things, if not that the change ~~things have~~ has been ~~changed~~ for the worse, and they bound to work all the harder in consequence?— I hope that foolish betrayal of their thought will call out some comment.

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— I hope it may be so arranged that our Trustees' meeting may not come before Monday March 22d.; as this present week is likely to be, for me, crowded over-full without going to Boston.— We expect Edward to arrive from his 3 years' cruise by Tuesd. or Wednesday.

With kindest regards to your wife & to Fanny, my sincere hopes for Mr. V.'s restoration to health & my affecte. remembrance to Frank, I am, Truly Yours

Saml. May Jr